

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A scanning charged-particle microscope having a charged-particle source,
a lens for focusing a charged-particle beam emitted from said charged-particle source, and
a scanning deflector for scanning said charged-particle beam in two-dimensional form on a sample,
wherein said scanning charged-particle microscope is characterized in that a passage aperture for limiting the passage of the charged-particle beam is located between the charged-particle source and said scanning deflector, and in that a member for limiting the passage of the charged-particle beam is provided at least in the center of said passage aperture,
said lens focusing the charged particle beam such that a plurality of differential parts of charged particle beam passing through the passage aperture converges one point on the sample simultaneously,
said scanning deflector scanning the converged charged particle beam, and
an image of said sample is obtained by scanning said charged-particle beam having passed through said passage aperture on said sample using said scanning deflector.
2. (Currently Amended) A scanning charged-particle microscope as set forth in Claim 1 above, wherein the scanning charged-particle microscope ~~is characterized in that~~ has the half-opening angle of said aperture for said charged-particle beam focused on a sample by said focusing lens has a band with respect to specific values of α and β .
3. (Currently Amended) A scanning charged-particle microscope as set forth in Claim 1 above, wherein the scanning charged-particle microscope ~~is characterized in that~~ has said passage aperture is formed in a plate-like body, and in that said plate-like body is formed movably with respect to said charged-particle beam.

4. (Currently Amended) A scanning charged-particle microscope as set forth in Claim 3 above, wherein the scanning charged-particle microscope ~~is characterized in that~~ has said plate-like body is provided with a circular aperture in addition to said passage aperture.

5. (Currently Amended) A scanning charged-particle microscope having a charged-particle source,
a lens for focusing a charged-particle beam emitted from said charged-particle source on a sample with a half-opening angle which defines an irradiation angle of the charged particle beam against an optical axis of the charged particle beam,
a scanning deflector for scanning said charged-particle beam in two-dimensional form on a sample,
wherein said scanning charged-particle microscope ~~is characterized in that~~ it has a member located between the charged-particle source and said scanning deflector, the member having a limiting part which limits the charged particle beam having the half-opening angle being from zero degrees to b degrees and allows the charged-particle beam having the half opening angle being from b degrees to a degrees ($-b \leq a < b$) to pass the member,
said lens focusing the charged particle beam such that a plurality of differential parts of charged particle beam having the half opening angle being from b degrees to a degrees converges one point on the sample, simultaneously,
said scanning deflector scanning the converged charged particle beam, and
an image of said sample is obtained by scanning said charged-particle beam which is cut off the half opening angle being from b degrees to a degrees.

6. (Currently Amended) A scanning charged-particle microscope as set forth in Claim 5 above, wherein the scanning charged-particle microscope ~~is characterized in that~~ has a plate-like aperture body in which an annular aperture is formed is provided between said charged-particle source and said scanning deflector.

7. (Currently Amended) A scanning charged-particle microscope as set forth in Claim 6 above, wherein the scanning charged-particle microscope ~~is characterized in~~

that has in addition to said annular aperture, a circular aperture is provided in said plate-like aperture body, and in that there is provided a movement feature for positioning said annular aperture and said circular aperture on the orbit of said charged-particle beam.

8. (Currently Amended) A scanning charged-particle microscope having
a charged-particle source,
a lens for focusing the charged-particle beam emitted from said charged-particle source, and
a scanning deflector for scanning said charged-particle beam in two-dimensional form on a sample,
wherein said scanning charged-particle microscope ~~is characterized in that~~ has an aperture, located between the charged-particle source and said scanning deflector, for limiting the passage of said charged-particle beam is formed in two different places on the orbit thereof, and in that one of said two apertures is an annular aperture and the other is a circular aperture, and
an image of said sample is obtained by scanning said charged-particle beam having passed through said annular aperture on said sample using said scanning deflector.

9. (Currently Amended) A scanning charged-particle microscope as set forth in Claim 8 above, wherein the scanning charged-particle ~~is characterized in that~~ in said annular aperture is formed in a plate-like body, in that said plate-like body is also provided with a circular aperture, and in that there is provided a movement feature for positioning the annular aperture and the circular aperture on the orbit of said charged-particle beam.

10. (Currently Amended) A scanning charged-particle microscope as set forth in Claim 8 above, wherein the scanning charged-particle microscope ~~is characterized in that~~ in said circular aperture is formed in a plate-like body, in that said plate-like body is also provided with a charged-particle beam cutoff portion, and in that there is provided a movement feature for positioning said charged-particle beam cutoff portion and said circular aperture on the orbit of said charged-particle beam.

11. (Currently Amended) A scanning charged-particle microscope as set forth in Claim 8 above, wherein the scanning charged-particle microscope ~~is characterized in that~~ has said circular aperture and said annular aperture ~~are~~ formed in a first plate-like body and a second plate-like body, respectively, in that said first plate-like body is provided with a charged-particle beam cutoff portion in addition to the circular aperture and said second plate-like body is provided with a circular aperture in addition to the annular aperture, and in that both the first plate-like body and the second plate-like body are provided with a movement feature.

12. (Currently Amended) A samples image forming method using a scanning charged-particle microscope having

- a charged-particle source,
- a lens for focusing the charged-particle beam emitted from said charged-particle source, and
- a scanning deflector for scanning said charged-particle beam in two-dimensional form on a sample,

wherein said samples image forming method ~~is characterized in that~~ has the image of a sample that has been acquired by scanning said charged-particle beam having passed through an annular aperture on said sample using said scanning deflector, said annular aperture being positioned on the orbit of the charged-particle beam and between said charged particle source and said scanning deflector, and the image of a sample that has been acquired with a circular aperture positioned on the orbit of the charged-particle beam are combined to form a new samples image.